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Page 4

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25X1 13. [REDACTED] LIAISON Called Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, to discuss with him a constituent letter from Chairman Edward P. Boland (D., Mass.) concerning alleged CIA activities in South Africa. I told Mr. Latimer that the pamphlet is seventy odd pages long and contains literally hundreds of names, and that a thorough job of research would take several weeks. Mr. Latimer assured me that all he wanted was a one page letter that Chairman Boland could send on to his constituent assuring the constituent that CIA is not doing things in South Africa that the pamphlet alleges. I told Mr. Latimer that we would have a response over to him by the end of next week (March 3, 1978). This has been discussed with [REDACTED] OLC, who has the action on the letter.

25X1 Mr. Latimer told me that Representative Les Aspin (D., Wis.) is ready to hold open hearings on CIA and media and would like to have the DCI testify sometime between 15 and 21 March in the morning. While the focus on the session would be on the DCI's regulation on CIA's relationship with the media, there will probably also be some questions on stations' relationships with Ambassadors and the cable exchanges relating thereto. I told Mr. Latimer that I would look into the DCI's availability and get back to him.

25X1 Mr. Latimer also said that he and Loch Johnson, of the Committee staff, want to have a meeting, if possible, Thursday, 2 March, with John McMahon, DDO, to structure hearings on closed and, when possible, open hearings on: (1) the mechanisms whereby covert action is approved, and (2) how good is propaganda and how is it assessed. Mr. Latimer admitted that he and particularly Loch Johnson, of the Committee staff, have been well briefed by [REDACTED] and even the Director himself on the subject. However, Mr. Latimer said that subsequent discussions with persons unnamed at the NSC revealed that there are some different perceptions on what the mechanisms for approval of covert action really are. I said that I would look into setting up an appointment with Mr. McMahon and get back to him.

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